Defence protocol between India and China

1774. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and China have signed a protocol to improve defence ties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that under the said protocol Defence personnel can visit military institutions of both the countries;

(d) if so, whether the Chinese Army Chief visited many Indian military institutions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) During the visit of the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to India in April 2005, a Protocol on the 'Modalities for the Implementation of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the military field along the Line of Actual Control in the India China border areas' was signed between India and China. The Protocol reaffirms the commitment of both sides to the principles of 'Panchsheel' and their resolve to respect the Line of Actual Control and work together to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas. The Protocol *inter alia* also provides for exchanges of visits between the relevant Military Regions of China and the Army Commands of India, and between institutions of training, sports and culture of the two armed forces.

General Liang Guanglie, Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army visited India from May 23-28, 2005. During his stay in India, the General visited (i) 50 (Independent) Parachute brigade, Agra; (ii) HQ Southern Command, Pune; (iii) College of Military Engineering, Pune; (iv) National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla; (v) Headquarter Western Naval Command, Mumbai; (vi) HQ Maharashtra, Goa & Gujarat (MG&G) Area, Mumbai (vii) and the United Service Institution and Centre for United Nations Peace Keeping Operations, New Delhi.